

Our constituents need help now. My constituents have told me that health care costs are beyond their reach. Some can't afford insurance at all and others have been denied coverage or dropped the minute they got sick. These problems plague our entire population, but disproportionately affect Hispanics.

Hispanics have an unbelievable uninsured rate of 31 percent. Our health system must provide essential services to all Americans, including those of Hispanic descent.

Hispanic Americans are the fastest-growing demographic group in this country. They are our future workforce.

Without health care coverage for all Americans, our country's economic future is at risk. Health care reform means having the peace of mind that if something unexpected should happen, an accident or an unexpected illness, people won't fall into economic ruin. Health care coverage for all Americans means a healthier, more productive America.

The time for health care reform is now.

UNITED NATIONS

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, following the defeat of tyranny throughout Europe in 1945, and in the ashes of the Holocaust, the United Nations was born. It was formed to create a forum to confront dictators before they rose to global power.

President John F. Kennedy in his inaugural address warned some four decades ago that the United Nations must not become a forum for invective against the West. But as we saw yesterday, with the leader of Libya decrying Israel in terms of "the Israeli demon," as we saw the leader of the discredited regime in Tehran denounce the "barbaric" attacks of the Zionist regime and continue to deny the Holocaust in public forums, we have seen the United Nations become not only a forum for invective against the West but especially a forum for invective against our most cherished ally, Israel.

Today the American people provide 20 percent of the financial support for the United Nations. Today the American people are asking why.

HEALTH CARE REFORM AND PRIMARY CARE

(Ms. SCHWARTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the importance of primary care in comprehensive health care reform. As we find a uniquely American solution for all Americans to have access to affordable, meaningful health

coverage, we must remember that insurance coverage alone means little if patients do not have access to health care providers or health care services.

Primary care providers are on the front line of the health care system, treating acute and chronic conditions and keeping costly conditions from worsening. Despite this essential role, it is primary care where we face the most acute shortages. Since 1998 the percentage of internal medicine residents choosing primary care has dropped from 50 percent to 20 percent. By 2025, America will have a shortage of 46,000 primary care providers.

I have championed efforts to bolster our primary care workforce, including new loan-repayment programs and increasing payments for primary care providers, as well as elimination of co-payments for preventive services for seniors and strengthening their ongoing relationship with their doctor.

I am proud that the health care reform bill includes this essential reform. I look forward to action on health care reform that addresses primary care.

PLIGHT OF FARMERS AND FARM WORKERS IN CENTRAL CALI- FORNIA

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, over the last few days, thanks to Sean Hannity, millions of people have seen or heard about the plight of farmers and farm workers in central California. In some areas, over 40 percent are unemployed and many thousands are having to stand in food lines so their families can have something to eat.

Farms have dried up because the Federal Government has cut off their water to save a 2-inch minnow elsewhere. This will drive up food costs elsewhere.

What many do not know is that the House voted on this issue twice, on June 18 and again on July 23. On the first vote, 171 Republicans voted for the farmers, 215 Democrats voted for the minnow. On the second vote, 176 Republicans, all but one, voted for the farmers. All but three Democrats voted for the fish.

Unfortunately, neither vote was close. Wealthy environmentalists won. The farmers and farm workers lost.

EXTEND UNEMPLOYMENT TO ALL REGIONS

(Mr. PERRIELLO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PERRIELLO. Mr. Speaker, the House acted in a bipartisan way this week to address the issue of extending unemployment benefits. It was an important act in this very difficult economic time to reach out to those who through no fault of their own have lost

the lifeline to be able to support their own families.

However, with the way that this was done, it was looking at unemployment levels State by State. That meant that even areas of tremendous economic distress in certain States did not benefit from this program.

There are parts in my district in southern Virginia with over 20 percent unemployment, but this act as written will not apply to them. Rural counties with 12 to 18 percent unemployment are not covered.

While this was an important act of bipartisanship to help those who are struggling in this economy, we must do better. We must find a way to make sure that unemployment benefit extensions and other relief efforts are targeted at the areas of greatest economic distress, even if those exist in States that are doing relatively well.

I hope that the areas around the country that are like southern Virginia, small manufacturing towns and farming communities, are not left out of these future efforts. I will continue to fight to make sure all those that are struggling get relief.

OFFSHORE ENERGY

(Mr. BROWN of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last year Congress and President Bush announced an end to the decade-long ban on offshore drilling. But the Obama administration stopped progress on meeting our Nation's energy needs by instituting an extended 6-month public comment period.

That period ended Monday, but according to the Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar, expanded offshore drilling may not happen until 2012, turning a 6-month delay into a 3-year ban. With the unemployment rate well over 9 percent nationwide and close to 12 percent in South Carolina, it is irresponsible for the administration to ignore the economic benefits that will come with America's energy production.

According to recent reports, drilling in the Outer Continental Shelf could generate \$8 trillion in gross domestic products over the next 30 years, 1.2 million American jobs and \$70 billion in wages annually. In South Carolina alone, offshore exploration could generate up to \$250 million in revenue annually, and would create over 2,000 jobs in the Palmetto State.

Mr. Speaker, we need to be sure that we are able to continue to develop our resources.

NATIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WEEK

(Mr. SMITH of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the